MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 MARCH 1987

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad defended his policy in Lebanon during an 8 March revolution anniversary speech broadcast by Damascus radio, asserting that the intervention in West Beirut stopped an "unprecedented bloodbath" and restored normal life. He said this had a positive effect on the possibility of reactivating Lebanese national dialogue and working for national accord. Syria will help the Lebanese in reaching the "final solution" to end the civil war, he said, but there must be a "serious desire" for accord by the Lebanese sides. As for criticism of Syria, Al-Asad said it is "painful" that "some sides outside Lebanon were frightened" by the Syrian move and shouted slogans of concern for Lebanon in an attempt to conceal "frustation" over the defeat of their "suspect plans."

Al-Asad also reaffirmed his commitment to regaining the Golan Heights from Israel, stressing that Syria has "a date" for liberating the Heights and telling the "heroes of the resistance in the Golan" that Syria will not forfeit an inch of this territory. In the Golan Heights, hundreds of students expressed their support for Syria in violent demonstrations 8 March, according to IDF and Jerusalem radios. Nine policemen were injured and five residents were arrested.

In another development, Damascus radio noted that President al-Asad received visiting Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi the same day. The radio gave no details of the talks, though IRNA said they discussed "matters of mutual interest."

Lebanon

Peace Talks — Reporting on the outcome of the 5-6 March Syrian-Lebanese talks in Damascus, "knowledgeable sources" cited by Voice of Lebanon radio said the two sides agreed on the need to abolish sectarianism but differed on the issue of power sharing and the authority to be assigned to the president, prime minister, and cabinet. Sources close to the Lebanese delegation viewed current Syrian moves as "encouraging," the radio added. In another indication of improved relations between Syria and President al-Jumayyil, Damascus radio broadcast a cable from Al-Jumayyil to Hafiz al-Asad congratulating the latter on the anniversary of the Ba'thist takeover in 1963. Al-Jumayyil expressed pleasure that this anniversary is being celebrated while Lebanon, thanks to Al-Asad's support, is taking a "big stride" toward restoring peace and security, regaining its sovereignty and unity, and realizing national reconciliation.

Iranian Activities, Comment — Tehran radio reported that "thousands" of Lebanese Muslims welcomed the new Iranian ambassador on his arrival in Beirut 7 March. The ambassador was accompanied by a high-ranking delegation headed by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, who deplored "recent incidents in Lebanon which led to the massacre of a number of Hizballah forces," IRNA noted. In Iran, President 'Ali Khamene'i told Friday worshippers that Iran has called on Syria to punish those responsible for the Hizballah killings, and he warned that Syria's prestige could be "tarnished" by the incident, according to Tehran radio.

Extent of Security Plan — The security plan will include all of Lebanon, not just the capital, Prime Minister Rashid Karami stated in remarks reported by Beirut radio 8 March. However, Hizballah criticized the security plan as a "new conspiracy" against Islam, stressing that it will not be disarmed and that the southern suburb of Beirut is "a line which cannot be crossed," according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Iran's Ayatollah Jannati likewise stressed that the Syrians cannot enter the southern suburb, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Radio Free Lebanon also reported that the "Lebanese Liberation Front" claimed responsibility for a 7 March attack on a Syrian intelligence center in West Beirut.

Hostages — The UAE's *Al-Ittihad* reported 7 March that three foreign hostages were killed when Syrian troops stormed the Hizballah barracks in the Al-Bastah area 24 February, adding that those killed include two Germans. The paper also cited reports that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite has been transferred from Ba'labakk to a Syrian intelligence headquarters in 'Anjar.

Amal Split — The crisis within the Amal Movement is coming to a head with the division of the organization into three parts in the south, Radio Free Lebanon reported 8 March. The three different groups are led by Mahmud al-Faqih, Dawud Dawud, and dissident chief Hasan Hashim, whose expulsion from the movement was announced by Voice of National Resistance radio 6 March.

Palestinians — An AFP report on the plight of Palestinians besieged in Shatila indicated that their condition is still critical as recent food supplies have already been used up.

Turkish Border Security

The Turkish Foreign Ministry stressed the importance of effective border security to the Syrian ambassador after "separatist bandits" killed eight people 7 March during an attack on a village near Nusaybin, according to a statement carried by Ankara radio. Another Foreign Ministry statement cited by the radio 6 March denied allegations that the "extremely limited" Turkish air raid against "terrorist" positions in Iraq was an "excuse" to violate that country's territorial integrity. The statement charged that "certain circles" are trying to involve Turkey in their "dark affairs" in the region.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Situation — In statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, the Iraqi command claimed that its forces downed

three Cobra helicopters and one F-5 6 March while Iraqi planes "destroyed" two maritime targets in the Gulf the following day. A third maritime target was hit by Iraqi planes 9 March, according to INA.

Iraqi Warning on Cities — An Iraqi spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses accused Iran of deliberately violating the conditions of Iraq's moratorium on attacking Iranian cities, adding that the Iranian leaders are responsible for the consequences of their aggression and for "wasting the honorable opportunity which the Iraqi political leadership gave them to stop the shelling of cities."

King Husayn Visit — Jordanian King Husayn and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn discussed the war and bilateral relations during talks in Baghdad 8 March, Amman television noted. INA said the Iraqi leader told his guest that the situation at the front is good.

Arab Comment on Pollard Affair

An 8 March editorial in Jordan's *Al-Ra'y* said the "Pollard phenomenon" is likely to be repeated and warned that U.S. embassies in the Arab world have become "Israeli spy centers" because the information they send to Washington ends up in Israeli hands. The paper viewed the U.S. diplomatic presence in the Arab region as "suspect and hostile" and wondered how the Arabs can deal with a country "which we know in advance is spying on us for our enemies."

In an editorial cited by MENA, Egypt's *Al-Akhbar* stated that the sentence imposed on Jonathan Pollard should mark the beginning of further investigation into Israeli espionage activities in the United States.

Israel

Pollard Affair — The affair has been sufficiently investigated and there is no need for further enquiries, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in an interview broadcast by Jerusalem radio 9 March. He maintained that it would be wrong to imagine that the Israelis involved in the affair have not been punished, asserting that the careers of Colonel Avi'em Sela' and Rafi Eytan have both been damaged. According to *Yedi'ot Aharonot*, the authorities will demand that Sela' and Eytan forgo their recent appointments in order to appease the United States.

Relations With Canada — Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres expressed regret over Canada's decision to refuse the appointment of Major General 'Amos Yaron as Israeli military attache in Ottawa, *Ma'ariv* reported. Noting that Canada's refusal was because of Yaron's role in the September 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacres, *Yedi'ot Aharonot* said that Israeli officials accepted the Canadian ambassador's explanations on the issue.

USSR Visit Refusal — A Kuwaiti newspaper cited by KUNA reported that the Soviet Union has refused a request by Foreign Minister Peres to visit Moscow. Citing "well-informed Western European sources," *Al-Qabas* said the Soviets told Israel that an exchange of high-level visits cannot take place until an international conference is convened and Israel takes steps indicating its willingness to withdraw from occupied Arab territory.

Kuwait-USSR

A military delegation headed by the assistant chief of staff arrived in Moscow 8 March for a 5-day official visit during which "military technical matters" will be discussed, KUNA reported.

Morocco-Western Sahara

More than 300 Moroccan troops were killed or wounded in recent fighting in the Farsia area, according to a Polisario communique cited by AFP 8 March. The Polisario also denied the Moroccan Defense Ministry's claim that 108 Saharan combatants were killed 2-5 March, the agency noted.

PLO-Libya

JANA reported that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat asked a Libyan diplomat in Sanaa to convey his thanks to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for the latter's "magnificent" stand on the Amal Movement's siege of Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

Sudan

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced over the weekend that the Libyan military force that accompanied a relief convoy into Sudan was ordered to leave the country "immediately," SUNA reported. The minister reaffirmed his country's policy of not providing facilities to any side in the Chadian conflict and noted the positive response to Sudan's efforts to bring about a cease-fire.

The armed forces continue to defend the security of Pibor, a statement cited by SUNA affirmed 7 March, thus refuting claims that the SPLA had captured the southern town. The statement noted that the citizens of Pibor will be evacuated to protect them from SPLA raids in retaliation for the recent destruction of an "outlaw camp" during which 131 rebels were killed.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Foreign Ministry Protests Pakistani Air Intrusions

LD051527 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 05 Mar 87

[Text] The charge d'affaires of Pakistan's embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry at 1330 today and the following protest note was handed to him by the director of the first political section:

It is stated in the note that, despite repeated protests by the DRA Government, Pakistan's authorities have not ended the violation of Afghanistan's airspace but instead they have intensified it further.

On 13 Howt 1365 [3 March 1987] [word indistinct] aircraft of Pakistan's Air Force violated DRA airspace over the region of Spin Buldak, from 0920 until 1000 with a speed of 750 km an hour and with a height of 2-2.5 km and [words indistinct].

Similarly, on the same date, a Pakistani Air Force jet with a speed of 750 km an hour and at a height of 2,000 meters carried out a 15-minute reconniassance flight over the district of Nazian, Marona region, from 1345 until [time indistinct].

Also, on 14 Howt 1365 [4th March 1987] a jet aircraft of Pakistan's Air Force intruded into DRA airspace over Spin Buldak at 0948 and after carrying out a 10-minute reconniassance flight at a height varying from 2.000 to 5.200 meters, left from our country's airspace.

Also, (?on the same date), a jet aircraft of Pakistan's Air Force entered DRA airspace over Spin Buldak region, [words indistinct] and at a speed of 750 km an hour and various elevations, carried out a 10 minute reconniassance flight and left DRA airspace.

The DRA, while condemning the violation of its airspace by Pakistan Government, demands from the Pakistan Government to end such actions in future. Otherwise their dangerous consequences will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Pakistani Envoy Summoned Over Allegations

LD090715 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Kabul, March 8, BAKHTAR — The charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA and the following was conveyed to nim by the director of the First Political Section of the Ministry.

The Pakistani authorities, in a series of their false accusations alleged as if the Air Force of the DRA has invaded the agency of north Waziristan on February 26 and the Kurram Agency on February 27, 1987.

Likewise, they have alledged that the Armed Forces of the DRA intruded into the Domanda region on February 4, 6, and 7, Waligai [name as received] of Chaman on February 11, Darwesh of Chatwal on Feb 14, and Arndo [name as received] region on Feb 15, 1987.

The concerned authorities of the DRA, after investigation, regard these allegations completely groundless and void of fact.

Rejecting these allegations, the DRA demands the Pakistani authorities to refrain from such groundless allegations and hostile propaganda against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which only leads to the aggravation of the situation on the borders between the two countries.

U.S. Pushing Pakistan To Obstruct Geneva Talks

LD080755 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Kabul, March 7, BAKHTAR — Pursuing a peaceful, flexible policy of goodwill, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, DRA, has made every effort during the Geneva talks to seek an acceptable and righteous way for the solution of the situation around the DRA, writes an article published by daily *Haqiqat-e Enqelab-e Sawr*. It was as a result of such efforts that an agreement has been reached during Geneva talks on three main documents out of four, the daily indicates. The fourth document, which is directly linked with the three other documents and is to be agreed upon during the current round of Geneva talks, is under discussion.

The new round of Geneva talks, the daily continues to write, has a special characteristic as compared with the previous ones. These talks are held at a time when the DRA has declared the policy of national reconciliation with firm readiness for the establishment of a national unity government and has called the opposition groups for dialogue.

However, the Washington authorities are striving as before, to provoke Pakistan to create obstacles against reaching agreement in Geneva talks and in the realisation of the humanistic policy of the national reconciliation in the DRA, by raising baseless allegations such as air raids of Pakistani territory by Afghan planes and financing the Afghan opponents, the daily points out.

Daily *Hewad* also carries an article on the same occasion and points out that despite the sinister Western propaganda on the probable results of the current Geneva talks, most of the political observers are predicting good prospects from the talks due to the earlier efforts made for their success.

The newspaper expresses the hope that mutual suspicions and misunderstanding be substituted with cooperation and understanding between the DRA and its Eastern and Western neighbours.

U.S. Equipping Pakistan With Nuclear Arms

LD080602 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Kabul, March 7, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

The ambitions of the Pakistani authorities for obtaining nuclear weapons have evoked the just and serious concern of Pakistan's neighbours as well as the rest of the countries of the region.

Dr Abdul Qadir Khan a well-known Pakistani expert in the field of nuclear energy has confessed that Pakistan has already produced nuclear-bomb. Right after his confession, Pakistani press came out to reject the Pakistani expert's confession. However, there exist strong indications testifying to what the Pakistani expert said, based on convincing reasons.

Following his confession, Rajiv Gandhi, India's prime minister, said in the Indian parliament that Pakistan has been secretly engaged in production of nuclear weapons in recent years.

Undoubtedly, the embitions of Pakistani militarists to get nuclear-bomb exceed the defensive needs of that country and are aimed at further threatening its neighbours by resorting to force.

The history of the last three decades shows that dictatorial regimes of Pakistan had been the main factor of the tensions in the region and the wars between Pakistan and India. The large-scale military manoeuvres launched near the Indian borders during the last month has been the latest such actions of Pakistani rulers which caused further aggravation of the relations between the two countries. On the other side, the Pakistan's territory has been used as the main base and launching-pad of the undeclared war of imperialism against the DRA in the past eight years.

In equipping Pakistan with nuclear weapons, the role played by the U.S. Administration cannot be denied. Washington not only has not deterred Pakistan from producing a nuclear bomb, but has put all the necessary modern technology for production of nuclear bombs at the disposal of Islamabad.

Precisely in the framework of the U.S.-Pakistani military and economic deal, large amounts of modern armaments such as F-16 war planes, Harpoon missiles flowed into Pakistan. In the shortest period of time, Pakistan expanded and built new military bases with the help of U.S. Administration and officially announced the U.S. military forces could make use of some of the Pakistani military bases inside that country.

The militarist and bellicose policy pursued by Pakistani rulers on the dictates of Reagan's administration, runs completely opposite to the will of the majority of the people of Pakistan.

The people of Pakistan are faced with serious social and economic problems, which, in no way, can be solved by (?militaristic) and bellicose policies.

Rebel Leader Criticizes Proposed Return of King

LD081648 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Islamabad, March 8, IRNA — Head of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan Gulbuddin Hikmatyar strongly criticised those Afghan groups who he said seem to endorse the new Soviet proposal on return of the former King Zahir Shah to this central Asian country.

In a statement issued here Sunday, Hikmatyar said that the Afghan nation considers Zahir Shah as the prime cause for all crimes being committed in Afghanistan today. Zahir Shah's anti-Islamic policy paved the way for occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet forces, he added.

Hikmatyar in his statement threatened a showdown with the pro-Zahir Shah groups in the future session of the Islamic Unity of Afghanistan meet, adding that he will call on them to declare their stand on this issue.

The partisan attitude of certain Afghan groups towards Zahir Shah in the current situation will sow discord among other groups, said Hikmatyar, noting that Afghan mujahidin will never agree to the ex-king's return.

Refugees Continue To Return in Reconciliation Drive

LD080611 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Kabul, March 7, BAKHTAR — Notwithstanding the obstructions created by the extremist elements, the process of the return of Afghans from abroad to their homeland is gaining momentum by every passing day.

523 families comprising of 3,134 repatriates have returned to the lap of their homeland in Nangarhar, Helmand, Ghazni, Konduz, and Samangan Provinces of the country in the past two days.

Besides an armed group of 14 persons laid down their arms in Konduz Province and joined the process of national reconciliation.

The repatriates, who were returning through the border both from Pakistan and Iran, were welcomed by the party and state officials and their relatives.

The returnees are being provided with residential accomodation, work, and educated facilities to their children and their ownership rights on their land are being restored.

Likewise, the repatriates are given with sufficient gratis aids of the Soviet Union such as wheat, tea, sugar, soap, blankets, and other primary consumer goods.

While returning, the families are being provided free medical check up and medicine as well.

So far, about 25 thousand refugees have returned to the fold of their homeland since the declaration of ceasefire on January 15, under the policy of national reconciliation.

'Extremist Elements' Detonate Bomb in Zabol

LD051731 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 05 Mar 87

[Text] Under circumstances where the revolutionary authority has proclaimed a policy of national reconciliation in the country in order to stop the war and the fratricide and restore peace and is therefore observing a cease-fire, the extremist elements which are hostile to our people's prosperity and tranquility have detonated a U.S.-made mine in the agricultural farm of Qalat City and thus committed another unforgivable crtime.

Quoting a spokesmen for the security forces in Zabol Province, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that as a result of the blast last Tuesday 10 innocent children aged between 2 and 12, including school pupils in the first to fourth grades, were matryed and another two were injured.

The report adds that the extremist elements are trying to disrupt the peaceful life of our people by creating an atmosphere of fear and terror among them, and to create barriers against the advancing wave of national reconciliation by using terrorism.

However, our compatriots, by perceiving the humanitarian nature of the policy of national reconciliation, have expressed their support for the work of peace and calmness in the country and have denounced the perpetrators of this crime.

Mujahidin Destroy Kabul Secret Police Headquarters
BK090314 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that in a major clash with the Soviet-Kabul forces in Golbahar recently, mujahidin inflicted a heavy loss of life to Soviet-Kabul forces. In that encounter the headquarters of secret police in Kabul was totally destroyed and at least 45 Soviet-Kabul soldiers were killed. In another operation, mujahidin damaged 10 posts of the Soviet-Kabul forces and liberated the Kapisa area. Another report says there was fierce fighting between mujahidin and Soviet-Kabul forces in the (Zazar Islam) area recently, killing at least 60 Soviet-Kabul soldiers and capturing 50 soldiers of the Kabul administration.

Destroy 3 Soviet Tanks in Takhar
BK070630 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have destroyed three Soviet tanks in an attack on a military convoy in Takhar Province. The crewmen aboard these tanks were killed in the attack, which also left 15 other Soviet-Kabul soldiers dead. A total of 13 Kabul soldiers joined the mujahidin.

French Foreign Affairs Official Arrives in Dhaka

BK081624 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Official talks between Bangladesh and France will be held in Dhaka tomorrow. The French secretary of state for foreign affairs, Mr Didier Bariani, arrived in the capital this morning to lead his country's delegation at the talks. The two sides will discuss bilateral matters and international issues of common concern.

The visiting French secretary of state called on Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury today. They discussed the possibilities of improving the existing relations for mutual benefit.

Delhi on Opposition Leaders Meeting in Dhaka

BK080936 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, the two main opposition leaders — Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia — have called for a united movement to dislodge the present government. The Awami League chief, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, addressed a meeting in Dhaka yesterday in defiance of the government's ban on public meetings. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief, Begum Khaleda Zia, criticized the government for its failure to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

Student Opposition Leader Killed by Bomb Blast

BK091556 Hong Kong AFP in English 1546 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Dhaka, March 9 (AFP) — An opposition student leader was killed and at least seven others injured, some of them seriously, when a powerful bomb exploded in a university hostel here Monday, hospital sources and witnesses said. The explosion rocked the third floor in a student hostel at Dhaka University, the witnesses said.

Hospital sources said Mahbubul Huq Bablu, 27, who led the student wing of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia, was rushed to hospital after the blast but was found to be dead on arrival. Seven others were injured in the explosion, some seriously, and were being treated in two hospitals, the sources added.

A student who was on the campus when the explosion took place said Mr Bablu and the seven other students were in a room on the third floor of the Mohsin Hall hostel when the bomb went off. It was not known whether the bomb had been planted in the room or whether the students were preparing it for Tuesday's planned general strike against increases in bus fares.

Police declined to comment on the blast but said they had opened an investigation into the incident.

Dhaka Confirms 1 Dead, 4 Injured

BK091729 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1705 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] this evening admitted an adjournment motion by Mr Mohammad (Ainuddin) of Muslim League on the recent unhappy incident at the Dhaka medical college premises and the Dhaka University campus. Discussions on it will be held at a later date.

Deputy prime minister in charge of Ministry of Home Affairs, M.A. Matin, informed the house that one student was killed and four others were seriously injured when a bomb exploded in a room of Mohsin Hall of Dhaka University today. All injured students have been admitted to the hospital. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Denies Figures on Tribals in India

BK060154 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Bangladesh has denied that about 49,000 Bangladeshi Chakma tribal nationals have entered into the northeastern Indian territories. A spokesman of the Home Ministry said in Dhaka yesterday such an inflated figure of the Chakma refugees as given by an Indian minister in the Lok Sabha is not based on the correct situation. The spokesman also expressed Bangladesh's readiness to take back genuine Bangladeshi nationals from India.

Chakma 'Miscreants' Kill 2 Tribals; Injure 1

BK021339 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Armed Chakma miscreants have shot dead two tribals and left another severely injured in the frontier village of (Barapanchali) in Khagrachari District when they refused to comply their order to cross the border.

Quoting official sources, BSS reports that an armed Chakma gang of nearly 25 on last Friday night forcibly escorted a group of nearly 100 tribles from the (Pyarachara) of (Bangal Khati) Mauja under Khagrachari Sadar Upazila [Subdistrict] upto the frontier village. The tribals were ordered to cross over to the side of the border they (?came), but they refused. The infurated miscreants started [words indistinct] and at one state fired shots and killed two on the spot while another was severely injured.

Visiting French Foreign Minister, Tiwari Meet

BK061643 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] The visiting French foreign minister, Mr Jean-Bernard Raimond, today held talks with his Indian counterpart, Mr N.D. Tiwari, in New Delhi. Pakistan's nuclear program figured during the talks. Other issues discussed by the two leaders include the festival of France in India and sanctions against the racist regime of South Africa. The contribution to the Africa Fund also came up during the discussion.

Later, addressing news conference, Mr Raimond said there is no question of French companies cooperating with Pakistan in its nuclear program. This was in reference to the claim made by Islamabad nuclear scientist in a recent interview.

The French leader said his country will consider any Indian proposal for cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy. He said he has offered to collaborate with India in the light combat aircraft project.

Mr Raimond said France has pledged 20 million francs to the Africa Fund.

Tiwari, Bulgarian Official View Pakistan's 'Bomb'

BK061705 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] India has expressed her anxiety at reports that Pakistan now has the atom bomb. The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, voiced his concern during the meeting with the Bulgarian deputy prime minister, Mr Ognyan Doynov, in New Delhi today. Mr Doynov is now a 5-day visit to India. Mr Tiwari also apprised the Bulgarian leader of the Indo-Pakistan talks to defuse tension on the western border. He said Pakistan's nuclear program poses a threat to peace in the region. The Bulgarian leader apprised India's stand of using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only. [sentence as heard]

Tiwari Leaves To Attend Guyana Nonaligned Meeting

BK071348 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, left for Guyana this morning to attend the nonaligned foreign ministers conference. The conference will review the progress made by the movement in solving various international issues since the last meeting at Harare.

Press Release on Natwar Singh's Bangkok Visit

BK060919 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0833 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Following is the text of the joint press release issued after talks between Minister of State for External Affairs Mr Natwar Singh and Thai Foreign Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi Sawetsila in Bangkok on March 3, 1987.

His Excellency Mr Natwar Singh, minister of state for external affairs of India, visited Bangkok on March 3, 1987 for consultations with His Excellency Mr Sitthi Sawetsila on bilateral and regional issues. Mr Natwar Singh called on Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon. He said that the people and Government of India were keenly looking forward to the visit of Princess Maha Chakkri to India. A very warm welcome awaited her. He also expressed the hope that his excellency the prime minister of Thailand would be able to visit India in the near future.

Natwar Singh had wide ranging discussions with his excellency the Thai foreign minister. Useful exchange of views took place on Kampuchea and both sides agreed to keep in touch.

Both sides touched upon the ways and means to improve bilateral trade between the two countries. It was decided that the joint commission meeting will be held soon on dates to be decided by mutual consultation. The Indian side welcomed the Thai delegation to come to India to discuss cooperation in the field of fisheries.

All-Party Rally on Punjab Begins in Ludhiana

BK080930 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Thousands of people from different parts of Punjab have gathered at the Guru Nanak Stadium in Ludhiana to attend an all-party rally on Punjab. The rally, which is the first of a series to be organized in the state to combat terrorism and fundamentalism, began a short while ago. It is being organized under the action plan formulated at an all-party meeting in New Delhi last month to mobilize public opinion against terrorism. Leaders of national and regional political parties as well as religious and social leaders and intellectuals are participating in the rally. [passage omitted on names of prominent persons attending the meeting]

Resolve Expressed To Fight Terrorism

BK081355 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] In Punjab, the all-party rally held in Ludhiana has unanimously resolved to fight the forces of terrorism and fundamentalism. In a resolution the rally today condemned the reign of terror, killings, and arson let loose by these elements in and outside Punjab. The rally expressed its total support and solidarity with the chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, and with the brave people of Punjab in their relentless fight against them.

The speakers at the rally called upon the people not to allow religious places to become the centers of antinational, separatist, and terrorist activities. They pledged to make any sacrifice to safeguard national unity and integrity. They said the battle Punjab is fighting concerns not only one state or any single party but the entire nation. They felt that the regional aspirations and political differences should be resolved through democratic means. They said violence has no place in a democratic setup.

Barnala Addresses Rally

BK081633 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Excerpts] A massive all-party rally held in Ludhiana today condemned the reign of terror and killings let loose by terrorists in Punjab. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the rally, Mr Barnala said that nobody derives strength through killing of innocent people. He sought the cooperation of all in the fight against terrorism and antinational elements. He also demanded the immediate release of Jodhpur detenues and rehabilitation of the amry jawans [soldiers] who left their barracks under emotional stress during June 1984.

The union urban development minister, Mrs Moshina Kidwai, told the rally that the time has come to give a determined fight to antinational forces. She said that people go to religious places to seek solace and follow the path of love and brotherhood. But some religious places these days have become centers of activities for terrorists and killers.

The CPI-M leader, Mr Harkrishan Singh Surjit, said although the acting chief of the Akal Takht [highest religious seat of Sikhs], Professor Darshan Singh, issued a religious edict against Mr Barnala on flimsy grounds, he failed to act against those who are indulging in the killing of innocent persons even within the precincts of the Golden Temple. [passage omitted gives names of some partymen who took part in rally]

Army Chief on Recent Military Border Exercises

BK061341 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] The chief of the Army Staff, General K. Sunderji, has said that exercise "Brass Tacks" is a training exercise to test the defensive capability and maneuverability of the troops. In an informal talk with a group of journalists who witnessed the exercise area, he said the exercise was conceived in July last year and has progressed through various stages as scheduled. There was no change in its size or the concepts, the general added.

General Sunderji said Pakistan was informed about it and again in November when the troops started moving for the exercise.

Answering questions on the recent developments on Indo-Pakistan borders, the Army chief said India has been informing Pakistan about any movements of our troops near the border to allay any possible apprehensions.

Head Constable Killed in Amritsar Golden Temple

BK071625 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] In Amritsar, a head constable was killed and three others seriously injured when they were fired upon from a room in the Golden Temple Parikrama [compound] earlier in the day. The state home minister, Captain Kanwaljit Singh, told newsmen in Chandigarh this evening that six policemen in plainclothes without shoes and arms had gone to the room along with the jathedar [Sikh religious leader] to rescue a police constable who was being tortured inside the room. He said that the jathedar had earlier informed the police that Constable Davinderjit Singh was kidnapped early this morning by terrorists and had been forcibly taken to a room where he was being tortured. Mr Davinderjit Singh had gone to the Golden Temple to offer prayers. The minister said that two policemen rushed out and informed the police and the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] on duty outside the complex. About 20 men of police and CRPF then went to the room and removed the injured constables, including Mr Davinderjit Singh, who bore knife wounds all over his body on which his captors had sprinkled salt to torture him. The police immediately cordoned off the exit points of the temple complex and rounded up five suspects who were trying to escape. The killed head constable was identified as Mr Sukhdev Singh, while the injured have been identified as Constable Sucha Singh, Lakhvinder Singh, and Davinderjit Singh.

Captain Kanwaljit Singh alleged that the management of the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee: Sikh Temples Management Committee] has miserably failed to maintain the sanctity of the Golden Temple and has fully surrendered to the extremists. He has appealed to the Akal Takht acting chief, Professor Darshan Singh, and the management of the SGPC to restore the sanctity of the Golden Temple.

The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, who was in Bhatinda, air dashed to Chandigarh on receipt of the news and reviewed the latest situation at a high-level meeting. He described the incident as most unfortunate.

1 Killed in Punjab; 5 'Terrorists' Captured

BK061607 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] In Punjab, an assistant superintendent of the Ropar thermal plant was shot dead by two terrorists while he was returning home from work early this morning. The terrorists shot and injured another person near Khadur Sahib near Amritsar today. Police said five terrorists have been arrested in the state during the past 24 hours. Four of them were nabbed by the Hoshiarpur police and some pistols and cartridges were seized from them. The fifth was captured in the Jandiala area of the Amritsar District last night after an encounter with security forces. His accomplice escaped.

Junejo on Geneva Afghan Talks, Indian Border Pact

BK071326 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has expressed the hope that indirect talks on the Afghanistan problem, now in progress in Geneva, would make headway. He was talking to newsmen after inaugurating the rocket propellant plant at Havelian ordnance factory today.

Replying to a question about de-escalation of tension with India, he said as a result of recent agreement, troops from Chhor sector had started withdrawing. He hoped the decisions arrived at would be satisfactorily implemented.

Protest Lodged Over 'Unprovoked' Afghan Attacks

BK081615 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Two aircraft from Afghanistan violated Pakistan's airspace on Tuesday [3 March] last and dropped seven bombs and fired two rockets in Chitral area. As a result, two Afghan refugees were injured and some property destroyed. Another six Kabul regime aircraft also violated Pakistan's airspace on Sunday and dropped one bomb in Kurram Agency. One person was injured.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and a strong protest lodged with him over the unprovoked attacks.

Kabul Artillery Attacks Protested

BK090241 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] The Kabul administration's Armed Forces fired 12 artillery shells into (Kallachi), Kurram Agency, in Pakistan on 20 February. There were no reports of any loss of life or property. Afghan artillery units again violated Pakistani territory on 21 February, firing five artillery shells into Chagai in Bajaur Agency injuring one person. On the same day the Kabul administration's Armed Forces fired 20 artillery shells into Ghulam Khan Qili of North Waziristan Agency injuring one person.

The charge d'affaires of the Kabul administration was summoned to the foreign office yesterday and a strong protest was lodged with him over these unprovoked attacks.

Pakistan has also rejected the protest of the Kabul administration made last Monday [2 March] alleging that a Pakistani plane violated Afghan airspace in Spin Buldak in Qandahar Province on Sunday. The Kabul charge d' affaires was told that the charge was found baseless on investigation.

Afghan Raids Call Peace Seriousness into Question

BK071419 Karachi DAWN in English 1 March 87 p 7

[Editorial: "Gloomy Portents"]

[Text] The wanton bombing by Afghan aircraft of border villages inside Pakistan on Thursday and Friday [26 and 27 February], resulting in the highest death toll in such incidents so far, and extensive damage to property, is a disturbing development and speaks of the height of callousness and irresponsible conduct that the Kabul regime is capable of. One is appalled by the insensitivity shown by Kabul in mounting aerial attacks on such a big scale on unprotected civilian targets and that, too, without any discernible provocation. The action also tends to belie the cautious optimism entertained on the eve of the proximity talks on Afghanistan which opened in Geneva on Feb 25. There was a flurry of promising signals from Moscow and Kabul that steadily built up an atmosphere of hope about the prospects of a settlement emerging out of the Geneva-VIII and about the current round turning out to be a decisive one. Then began a drumbeat of ominous hints. A day before the start of the talks a senior U.S. official (Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy), spoke gloomily about Soviet intentions regarding the withdrawal of troops. Two days later a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad talked to Pressmen in a vein that seemed to suggest a studied attempt to provide a damper on optimistic forecasts. He volunteered the remark that he had no specific information that the gap in the timeframe for the troops' withdrawal could be resolved. Now Kabul has spoken in the language of bombs. This seems to represent a cynical attempt by the Kabul gentry to exert pressure on Islamabad. Such incidents have also taken place in the course of the previous rounds of the Geneva process. Yet, the latest strikes — the severest in their ferocity — hardly fit in with Kabul's January declaration of a unilateral cease-fire and of a programme of national reconciliation. In their total effect, they call into question Kabul's seriousness in sponsoring a peace move. This may have the effect of putting at risk the chances of success at Geneva. That was exactly the point of the protest lodged by Pakistan with the UN intermediary, Mr Diego Cordovez.

Pakistan has so far observed restraint in its response to terror bombings. The obvious aim has been to avoid any action that may aggravate an already volatile situation. But the merciless killing of innocent and defenceless civilians on such a scale represents a very grave provocation. Hence the Prime Minister's orders for prompt detection and interception of any marauding aircraft. There are obvious dangers in following a collision course. If Kabul wishes the Geneva talks to be taken seriously — as Pakistan does — it should resist the temptation to repeat the bom' ng.

Zain Noorani Says Nuclear Program To Continue

BK081549 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] The National Assembly was assured today that Pakistan maintains a solid and clear policy regarding its peaceful nuclear program. Answering several adjournment motions, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani also clarified that Pakistan cannot compromise the nation's sovereign rights. The

adjournment motions had sought a discussion on the statement of the U.S. ambassador in Islamabad in which he had advised Pakistan to unilaterally sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The minister of state for foreign affairs assured that no power of the world can keep Pakistan from implementing its peaceful nuclear program. Pakistan is not ready to accede to any unilateral restriction nor will it accept any discriminatory attitude. It will rather prefer to renounce foreign aid. He declared Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program will go on no matter what sacrifices we may have to offer.

As for the friendship with the United States, it should be based on understanding. Any attempt to dictate or pressure will be inconsistent with the principles of friendship.

The adjournment motions were sought to be moved by Javed Hashmi, Sardar Asif Ahmed Ali Hamza, Mumtaz Ahmad Tarar, Mian Mohammad Zaman, Liaqat Baluch, Afaque Shahid, Syedah Abidah Hussain, M.P. Bhandara, and Sheikh Rashid Ahmed. The movers pressed their motions and sought a discussion on foreign policy and said that country's economy should be strengthened so that we may be able to face the challenge boldly. The members said Pakistan must continue with the implementation of its peaceful nuclear program to effectively meet the existing difficult energy situation. The discussion on these motions remained inconclusive as the time fixed for the adjournment motions had elapsed.

MUSLIM Carrics Interview on Bomb Capability

BK081059 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
1 Mar 87 pp 1, 5

[From Kuldip Nayyar]

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 28 — Pakistan has the bomb, Abdul Qadir Khan, "Father of the Islamic Bomb," would not actually say that, but what he told me should be enough testimony. "America knows it. What the CIA has been saying about our possessing the bomb is correct and so is the speculation of some foreign newspapers," he said.

The 51-year-old Mr Khan is hard to reach at his distant "two-bungalow" house, located in idyllic surroundings of mountains and woods in Islamabad. He is fond of birds, which abound at his residence. Strict security arrangements shield him and from nowhere guards and bulldogs appeared when I was still yards from his house.

"They told us that Pakistan could never produce the bomb and they doubted my capabilities, but they know we have done it," said Mr Khan. During an hour-long interview with me, the first to a foreign journalist, he referred specifically to an observation of Dr H.N. Sethna, when he was Chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission three years ago, that Pakistan had neither the capability nor men to manufacture the bomb.

"Indeed, it was difficult, particularly when America and other Western countries had stopped selling anything which could be used in manufacturing the bomb," he said. Embargo was put on such small things as magnets and maraging steel. "But we purchased whatever we wanted before the Western countries got wind of it."

Mr Khan is taciturn but by no means modest. He is proud of what he has done in proving sceptics like Dr Sethna wrong. And so sure of himself that he does not bother to back off-repeated Pakistani denials that it has the bomb. But he would not allow me to tape-record the interview.

Why don't you announce that you have the bomb, I asked him point blank. "Is it necessary? America has threatened to cut off all its aid." "But you have not tested it yet?" "The testing does not have to be on the ground. It can be done in a laboratory through a simulator. Plans are flown after testing their capability in simulators."

Mr Khan said India had a bomb bigger than the one it exploded in Rajasthan on May 18, 1974. "You have not tested it on the ground but you have tested its capabilities otherwise," he said.

Mr Khan did not say when Pakistan actually came to possess the bomb. He mentioned that India took 12 years to make the bomb while he took only seven years. He returned to Pakistan from Holland in December 1975 and the Kahuta plant took three years to complete, that means that by December 1978 or the beginning of 1979, it was operational. If one were to add seven years, Pakistan could be said to have acquired the bomb either towards the end of 1985 or the beginning of 1986.

Making no pretence that Pakistan's nuclear programme was for peaceful purposes, Mr Khan said: "The word 'peaceful' associated with the nuclear programme is humbug. There is no "peaceful" bomb. After all, there is only a weak, transparent screen between the two, once you know how to make reactors, how to produce plutonium, all of which Pakistan has mastered, it becomes a rather easy task to produce nuclear weapons."

India's nuclear programme, according to Mr Khan, was not for peaceful purposes. In fact, he was very critical of India. "It is you who have forced us to go nuclear. The superpowers had to because of mutual fear. China being a big country had to make the bomb because both the Soviet Union and America had it. Why should you have done it? India had no such serious security problems: It had a friendship treaty with the Soviet Union. This was meant to threaten us, to establish its hegemony in the region. We were left with no alternative. In fact, it was as a result of the Indian betrayal of trust that the Canadians abrogated the agreement, he said.

Mr Khan, who by this time had given up the stance of talking in general terms, said that "Pakistan will not use it (the bomb) but if it is driven to the wall, there will be no option left in that eventuality. Nobody can undo Pakistan or take us for granted. We are there to stay and let it be clear that we shall use the bomb if our existence is threatened."

Mr Khan talked bitterly of Canada and France which, according to him, went back on "solemn agreements," the first cutting off all nuclear cooperation and refusing heavy water and the second backing off from the project for a reprocessing plant, even though it was to be set up under international safeguards. "America

twisted France's arms," he said.

Was Kahuta the right site to choose for putting up the nuclear plant? Mr Khan got rather excited on the subject, "While outsiders would solely think of their convenience I had two prime factors in mind. The site should be out of normal traffic for security reasons and it should be near the Capital.

Another factor was the consideration of the facilities for my scientists and engineers. We never repented our decision and it is solely due to the selection of this site and my presence in the Capital that we managed to rush through our programme for more than three years before the Western countries came to know of it and embarked upon concerted and coordinated but unsuccessful, efforts to kill our infant programme."

Mr Khan ruled out the possibility of any attack on the plant. "Israel is not interested because we never come in its way, nor have we antagonised it one way or another. India is the only other country, but it knows what price it would have to pay for attacking Kahuta. In any case, the plant is well protected and we have not put all our eggs in one basket."

"I personally think that the only way to stop nuclear warfare between India and Pakistan is to come to an agreement. Whatever arrangement you suggest we are willing to accept provided it is applicable to both countries equally," he said.

Mr Khan said that Pakistan had been criticised for "stealing" things from abroad for its programme. "First let me make it clear we shall do anything in the national interest." He sounded angry when he recalled his trial in Holland for "stealing" information from there. (A case was initiated against him in Holland for writing two letters from Pakistan to two of his former colleagues. But he fought the case from Islamabad and prepared a brief case for the lawyer).

Mr Khan studied in Bhopal, where he was born, till 1952. Only then did his parents migrate to Pakistan. He earned a B.Sc. degree from Karachi University and went first to West Germany and then Holland to specialise both in metallurgy and physics. He is married to a Dutch, Mrs Henny Khan, and has two children, both girls.

Delhi Reports 9 Injured in Clashes in Karachi

BK081245 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] In Pakistan, at least nine demonstrators were wounded in a clash between two groups in Karachi today. According to police, the supporters of the Muslim fundamentalist Jamiyat-i-Islamic Party and of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement fought with knives and iron rods and police had to use tear gas to disperse the groups. The clash broke out before a meeting which was to be addressed by Karachi's former mayor, Mr Abdus Sattar Afghani.

NEPAL

Party To Break Ban, Contest Local Elections

BK070731 Hong Kong AFP in English 0622 GMT 7 Mar 87

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Katmandu, March 7 (AFP) — The Nepali Congress Party, breaking the country's ban on partisan politics, has decided to field candidates in forthcoming district elections scheduled for March 21-24.

Party President Krishna Prasad Bhattari told *Agence France-Presse* that his party would contest some 70 district seats, out of a total 75.

"We are participating in the elections because the issues are mostly non-political at this level and... more related to the development of the region or towns concerned," he said. "We also want to show a gesture to the king by indicating that we are oppositionists but we can cooperate with the king," Mr Bhattarai added. He said King Birendra had called for everyone to participate in the local panchayat elections by saying the panchayat system was open to all. "We want to test how far we are welcomed and how far the doors are open to us in the panchayat," Mr Bhattarai said.

Nepal's panchayat system of government does without political parties but since reforms were introduced in 1980 the Rastriya Panchayat (National Assembly or parliament) and the village and town panchayats have been elected on the basis of adult franchise.

The Nepali Congress Party has long campaigned for democracy, and in January Mr Bhattarai said the party would end its agitational role if King Birendra introduced full democracy.

A national referendum in 1980 narrowly endorsed the continued ban on party political activity which was introduced two decades earlier.

"We are participating in the forthcoming local elections to show our cooperation with the king," Mr Bhattarai said. He said the decision to contest the election had been left to the regional party organizations.

In May 1986 the Nepali Congress Party boycotted national elections after the election commission refused permission for the party to campaign under its name. Although the election commission has again refused to recognize the party as taking part in the elections, Mr Bhattarai said it was going ahead nonetheless. However, he added that the party would not join forces with pro-Marxist and Leninist groups. "We want to contest the election by ourselves without any help of the banned leftist groups," Mr Bhattarai said.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Returns From Maldives Visit

BK061122 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] President Jayewardene and Mrs Jayewardene returned to the island yesterday afternoon after a 4-day official visit to the Maldives. A joint statement issued by the two presidents states that the visit provided an opportunity to review the existing pattern of bilateral relations and helped to identify further areas of mutual cooperation. According to the joint statement, the two presidents agreed that the two countries should strengthen their ties in the socio-economic, educational, and cultural fields and in particular make every effort to expand the trade between the two countries under the existing agreement.

President Jayewardene has informed President Gayoom of the Maldives of the developments in the ethnic problem facing Sri Lanka and the proposals for its settlement.

The two presidents were convinced that South Asian regional cooperation will promote the welfare and prosperity of the people of the region. They expressed concern over the delay in the implementation of the United Nations declaration of 1971 on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. An agreement to consolidate and expand the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries was also signed.

GDR's Fischer Talks With Jayewardene, Officials

BK071238 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] The visiting minister of foreign affairs of the German Democratic Republic, Oskar Fischer, paid a courtesy call on President J.R. Jayewardene yesterday [6 March] and conveyed a message from the East German leader Erich Honecker. He also called on Prime Minister R. Premadasa.

During official talks, Mr Fischer and his Sri Lankan counterpart A.C. Hameed discussed a wide range of issues of international, regional, and bilateral concern. A Foreign Ministry news release issued in Colombo said the talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, reflecting the existing good relations between the two countries. Both sides agreed to work toward further development of economic, cultural, scientific, technological, and trade relations. Mr Hameed also explained the present position on the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka, particularly the escalation of terrorist violence. The GDR minister who arrived in Colombo on Thursday [5 March] will conclude his visit today.

'Territorial Integrity,' Unity To Be Defended

BK071200 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] The government parliamentary group at its meeting presided over by President J.R. Jayewardene yesterday unanimously passed a resolution supporting the government's efforts to defend

the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and unity of Sri Lanka, (?if) necessary by military action. The resolution was moved by Harendra Corea, the deputy minister of public administration.

The resolution states that Sri Lanka, like any other democratic country, should not tolerate the (?activities) of a section of its people who take up arms and declare a particular part of its territory as their own. The group disagrees wholly with the request of the Government of India that Sri Lanka should halt its military action unilaterally. This request, the resolution points out, is hardly [as heard] that which should be made by a mediator. The resolution goes on to state that the government parliamentary group supports the government's continuing commitment to finding a political solution to the ethnic problem.

High Commission Denies 'Sikh Propaganda' Casts

BK071150 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] A Sri Lankan High Commission spokesman in New Delhi has denied an Indian press report that a radio station using official transmitting facilities was broadcasting Sikh propaganda from Sri Lanka. He said that the Sri Lankan Government would never allow such a thing to happen. The high commission's spokesman pointed out that Tamil militants in northern and eastern Sri Lanka had been operating at least four clandestine broadcasts from Tamil Nadu in southern India.

The pro-Moscow *Patriot* newspaper said in New Delhi yesterday that the clandestine radio was believed to be using official transmitting facilities at Ekala near Colombo to broadcast 2 hours of the Sikh propaganda daily to northern India. The director general of All India Radio, A.R. Sen, said that India was investigating the report and if they found any substance to the report they will then take it up through diplomatic channels. Sikh militants campaigning violently for separatism in the northern Indian state of Punjab have previously expressed support for the Sri Lankan Tamil terrorists. The issue of clandestine radio broadcasts was taken up during a meeting in New Delhi last month of the 7-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Security Forces Attack 4 Jaffna 'Terrorist' Targets

BK071135 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Seventeen people died in a terrorist land mine explosion at Avarantalawa near Ulukkulama in the Vavuniya District this morning. A government spokesman said that the explosion occurred when security personnel were taking some civilians in their vehicles for their daily marketing. It is customary for security vehicles traveling along by road to offer lift to civilians because of transport difficulties in these areas. The terrorists set off the land mine about 14 miles from Medawachchiya. Among the dead were six civilians, four members of the national auxiliary forces, and seven men of the 2d Battalion of the Armed Volunteers Corps.

The security forces today successfully attacked four terrorist targets [words indistinct] in the Jaffna peninsula. They fired on the Soranpattu junction from where the terrorists were directing mortar fire at the security forces' camp at Elephant Pass and at the aircraft. The forces also attacked the headquarters of the well-known terrorist, (Mahattaya), close to the Misalai railway station. Terrorist hideouts at Nallure where mortars were stocked and from where the terrorists were firing at the Jaffna fort and the aircraft were also destroyed.

AFP: Tamil Rebels Attack Army Fort in Jaffna

BK081212 Hong Kong AFP in English 1151 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Colombo, March 8 (AFP) — Nine separatists were killed and 10 seriously injured Sunday when guerrillas of Sri Lanka's main Tamil militant group launched an attack on the army fort in the northern city of Jaffna, an official said. Reports were also received here of continuing government attacks since Friday against rebel strongholds that left one rebel leader dead.

A senior government spokesman who witnessed the Jaffna attack said that guerrillas belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) group had been seen setting up mortars since early Saturday in positions close to the fort in the heart of the city. He added that the LTTE had made 40 mortar attacks on the fort Sunday, prompting the troops within to retaliate. Nine LTTE men were killed and 10 seriously injured in the ensuing clash.

The spokesman said that no government troops had been killed or injured but added that there might have been some civilian casualties. He said that militants had attacked the Navatkuly security camp, also in Jaffna, Sunday. Government troops had returned the fire but casualty details were not available.

The Media Centre here said that government security forces had swooped on suspected separatist hideouts Saturday in the region around Mannar, in northwestern Sri Lanka. Sources said that the security forces had found a large number of hand grenades, four land mines, and 50 kilogrammes (110 pounds) of explosives in a search of three villages in the area.

The Media Centre said that security forces had clashed with separatists during a raid on a separatist hideout in Batticaloa District, eastern Sri Lanka. The centre said that the rebels withdrew under heavy fire but sources later said that the body of an LTTE leader, identified as Lalith, had been found at the site. Sources said that troops had also found detonators, grenades, a lorry, large quantitites of foodstuff, and LTTE literature at the camp.

Also in Batticaloa District Friday, a suspected Tamil separatist was able to escape after militants attacked the Army vehicle taking him to jail. No one was injured in the ensuing shoot-out, sources said. They added that home guards at Sinnamadu, in eastern Sri Lanka, managed to capture a separatist who had just robbed the town's post office. The man's two armed accomplices were able to escape.

More than 5,000 people have died since mid-1983 in ethnic violence, the majority Sinhalese and the minority Tamils. [sen-

tence as received] The Tamil separatists are campaigning for a separate homeland in the east and north of the country.

Delhi Reports Attacks on Jaffna 'Militant Targets'
BK080855 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 20 civilians are reported killed and over 100 injured as Air Force planes and helicopters bombed and strafed various suspected militant targets at a number of places in the Jaffna peninsula last night.

Our Colombo correspondent says people started fleeing in panic as aerial attacks continued in Jaffna town which was plunged in darkness because of power cut. Several houses and shops in the bazaar area were damaged, and a section of the bazaar was reportedly burning throughout the night.

Reports reaching Colombo said aerial attacks were continuing in the Cnavakachcheri area even this morning. Reports of aerial attacks have also come in from Meesalai Road, Nallur, and other places in the peninsula. There has been no official word about the incident so far.

Khamene'i on War, Beirut, Talks on DRA

LD061607 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA — Leader of Friday congregational prayers of Tehran President 'Ali Khamene'i said during his sermons to a multitudinous group of worshippers at the compounds of Tehran University campus here at noontime Friday that the Iraqi forces are vulnerable throughout the battlefronts and that the Iranian thrusts in the various theaters since January 9th proves their capacity for inflicting a final blow at the politically right time.

He said periodically since the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war the Iraqi regime has resorted to various ploys for a respite to build up its forces, and that its February declaration of cessation of air raids on towns and cities in Iran has been just another of its wonted [as received] subterfuges.

President Khamene'i said it is common knowledge that the Iraqi regime is far from opting to halt hostilities out of concern for the safety of civilians in the Iranian towns and cities.

He said on the one hand the Baghdad regime expects that the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic to cease their combat operations at the war fronts while the Iraqi warplanes continue to raid industrial targets in Iran. He said the "Karbala'-7" operations would continue until such time as the Ba'thist regime in Iraq is toppled.

Esewhere in his second seromon to the worshippers here President Khamene'i deplored the massacre of Hezbollah members in Beirut late February and described the incident as counter to the overall goals of the struggle against the Zionist regime. He said long since the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, the Hezbollahs have been at the forefront of a ceaseles fight with the Zionist troops in Lebanon and that they are the very people who have charged the struggle against the Zionists with religious faith.

President Khamene'i decried suggestions for disarming Hezbollah forces in Lebanon and said such a development would never bring peace to Lebanon.

He said the plight of Palestinians has religious implications and in that inasmuch as it involves Islam it is the concern of all Muslim nations throughout the world.

Touching on the plight of Afghans and their struggle against the Soviet occupation army in Afghanistan, President Khamene'i said the issue of Afghanistan is principally the business of the Afghan people. He said because representatives of Afghan people were not admitted to the Geneva conference the decision of the conference was invalid.

President Khamene'i said Iran's formula for a peace plan in Afghanistan guarantees the right of the Afghans for self-determination and their sovereignty over their country since it involves first and foremost the people and the mujahidin groups of Afghanistan in the plan rather and not the 'puppet government in Kabul.'

He expressed hope that representatives of people now taking up arms against the occupation army in Afghanistan would be involved in any future effort for solving the situation in that country.

Khamene'i Calls for Fight Against Poverty

LD071512 Tehran IRNA in English 1441 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA — In a meeting with Imam Khomeyni's Relief Committee officials here Saturday, President 'Ali Khamene'i said that selfishness and the policy of bullying of world colonialist powers were responsible for the poverty, oppression, and discrimination affecting the world community.

The president reiterated that Islam is well capable of eradicating poverty and discrimination from the world, a goal the socialist and capitalist camp have failed to achieve.

He noted that the root causes of poverty, the means of production and ways to earn money should be investigated through a long-term, perhaps 20-30 year fundamental program so that poverty, discrimination, and the wide gap between the poor and the rich can be eliminated.

"Fighting poverty and supporting the oppressed are among the most important goals of the Islamic Revolution of Iran," Khamene'i stressed.

Khamene'i, who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC), referred to recent victories of Muslim combatants of Iran at the warfronts and said that world observers now believe that the tottering regime in Baghdad has been defeated and that the Islamic Republic will win victory in the Iraqi-imposed war.

The imam's representative to the Relief Committee Habibollah Asgar-Owladi [name as received] briefed the president on the services rendered by the committee. He said that 1,100 branches of the imam's relief committees are now at the service of the deprived and oppressed throughout Iran.

The committee has provided medical services for 300,000 needy people and has helped some to go abroad for further treatment, Asgar-Owladi told the president.

Montazeri Urges Removal of 'Shortcomings'

LD071140 Tehran IRNA in English 1136 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Qom, March 7, IRNA — Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri said here Friday that people of Iran have devoted their lives and property to materialising the Islamic Revolution.

The people, he stressed, are still suffering from deprivations and destructions inherited from the former regime as well as the ravages wrought by the Iraqi imposed war on them after the victory of the revolution.

Ayatollah Montazeri, speaking to a group of officials of Imam Khomeyni's Relief Committee here Friday, called on the people to take united measures to remove the shortcomings and to meet

both their material and spiritual needs. He furthermore praised services of the committee.

Musavi Says Superpower Interference Will Diminish

LD081052 Tehran IRNA in English 1006 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Sunday that Western analysis on the Iraqi imposed war was aimed at terrorizing people of the region.

Speaking after a Cabinet meeting, Musavi told reporters "We believe this war will lead to the removal of a mischievous regime from the region and (that) regional people afterwards will experience more comfort. A source of provocations and war mongering will be removed from the region," Musavi asserted.

Of course, he added, it was natural if interests of the superpowers were damaged and that consequently they embarked on acts of mischief.

But, he stressed, neither regional peoples nor their governments should be deceived by the superpowers.

The outlook of Islamic Republic of Iran on the future of the region is one of peace, tranquility, construction, and innovation. "The fate of the region will be determined by regional forces, Musavi said.

"Superpowers interference will be diminished to the minimum to have the least effect, or none at all, especially in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean," the prime minister said.

Prime Minister Musavi also spoke to reporters on the merging of the two Ministries of Agriculture and Construction Jihad.

He said that the objective was to better utilise manpower forces, possibilities, and also to avoid parallel duties. Musavi added that studies have been conducted on the issue for the past three years and that experts unanimously concluded that the two ministries be merged.

Of course, the prime minister said, this was the proposal of the Cabinet ministers and should be studied at a special committee in Majlis.

Says Operations' Pace Will Not Slow

LD081056 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Sunday that plans for uprooting aggression have paid off as a result of the acts of self-sacrifice of the Muslim forces of Iran in coordination with all other progressive forces.

Speaking after a Cabinet ministers session he added it is a fallacy to think that these plans were only drawn up to cover the outstanding victories gained during the current Iranian year, now in its last month. The enemy will be forced to realise that in the forthcoming year the pace of operations of the Muslim forces of Iran will not slow down.

More on the Iraqi imposed-war he said that the crushing attacks by troops of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the enemy are determined by military considerations. "Huge resources, energy, and time have been devoted for future moves," added the prime minister.

The enemy hopes in vain that Iran will rush to carry out its plans, thereby causing them not to yield the full result, he added.

The Cabinet ministers discussed latest domestic and foreign developments and Minister of Defence Colonel Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali reported on advances made by the Iranian forces in "Karbala'-7" operations launched in Hajj 'Umran area.

Furthermore the minister of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Mohsen Rafiqdust, briefed the Cabinet on outstanding achievements of the Muslim forces of Iran in "Karbala'-5" operations in Shalamacheh region.

Velayati Terms Lebanese Situation 'Unclear'

PM061645 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 Mar 87 p 18

[Untitled report from Mashhad by unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent]

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Velayati has described the situation in Lebanon as unclear and warned that, if a country intervenes in Lebanon carelessly, it will fall into the Lebanese quagmire.

Our country's foreign minister was speaking at a meeting attended by Mashhad theological students and teachers at the city's Islamic university held in the university's assembly hall.

The foreign minister spoke about Lebanese politics and history and said that country was the birthplace of literacy and numeracy.

He spoke about the struggles of that country's Muslim people against Zionism and said: When Israeli troops invaded Lebanon, Iranian forces were sent to Syria and Lebanon and they started a politico-military movement in the area. They engaged in military, ideological, and political training of young Lebanese. Then the people themselves set up their own organizational branch, the most famous of which was the Hezbollah.

He added: Because of the Hezbollah's nature, there was also some movement within the Sunni ranks which caused an explosion in that country, and the struggle against foreign elements in Lebanon began.

The foreign minister continued his speech saying: Today Lebanon is the political nerve center of the world and one of the most active political areas. All political factions want to have an influence in Lebanon, but none has as much influence as Iran. This is something that our opponents have admitted.

He said: It is very likely that after Iran, Lebanon may be the

country with the most readiness to accept Islamic principles and the Lord's revolution.

At the end of his speech, the foreign minister described the Lebanese situation as unclear. He added: There is no indication as to when the situation in Lebanon will stabilize. A country that intervenes in Lebanon runs the risk of sinking into a quagmire.

In any case, Lebanon will be considered the main element after the Iranian Islamic Revolution in the future of the region, however it may turn out, and will play an important and sensitive role.

Majlis Official on Syria's 'Duty' to Hezbollah

PM061633 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 Mar 87 p 18

[Untitled Report by unnamed *Keyhan* "political correspondent"]

[Text] Today Ahmad Azizi, head of the Majlis Foreign Relations Commission, commented on the recent events in West Beirut. He said: The Syrian security plan must not treat all the effective forces in the Lebanese political scene equally. The damage caused by the recent clashes between Syrian troops and Hezbollah, more than anything, will fall upon Syria itself.

The head of the Majlis Foreign Relations Commission took part in an exclusive interview with *Keyhan*. He stressed that Syria has the duty to strengthen Muslim and faithful forces in Lebanon, especially the Hezbollah, for a struggle against Zionism and aggression.

Azizi said: Martyring Hezbollah forces in Beirut can be considered a blow against the Islamic movement that is fighting aggression and Zionism. We must express our condolences to all the progressive Islamic frontline troops in Lebanon.

He explained that the policy of both East and West during the recent developments in Lebanon shows that they wish to stabilize the Zionist regime's position. They want to keep Lebanon free from all types of antiaggression and anti-Zionist forces. They especially want to disarm the Hezbollah and other faithful forces. It is the duty of all countries that claim to be against aggression, especially Syria and the dedicated forces in the area, to smash this disgraceful plot.

He added: The Syrian security plan must not treat all the effective forces in Lebanon the same way. It must allow freedom of movement for Islamic forces to remain active against aggression and Zionism. Equal treatment for all the forces in Lebanon will create obstacles for the anti-Zionist struggles. It will prevent Islamic goals from being realized.

Azizi said: Even though dedicated forces may not be supported, they should at least not be faced with hostility. A repeat of the Tripoli experience in Beirut and south Lebanon cannot be desirable or acceptable.

The head of the Majlis Foreign Relations Commission stressed that failure to differentiate between the various Muslim groups which have shown their worth in striking blows against world aggressors and those forces which have incited the policies of aggression and Zionism in Lebanon will first of all damage Syria itself. It will damage that country's strategy. Syria cannot fight the United States and Israel without relying on the true Muslim forces in Lebanon.

He then answered a question on the manner of the struggle against the Zionist regime in Lebanon. He said: The Muslims must continue their antiaggressor and anti-Zionist operations. They must feed the flames of struggle in Lebanon and not give East or West an opportunity to stabilize their policies. They must not allow the Muslim masses' interests to be sacrificed in political give and take. This is the only way to break the deadlock in Lebanon. Within this framework, Syria has the duty to strengthen the Muslim factions, especially the Hezbollah, and to make up for its mistake in any way possible.

Ayatollah Jannati, Delegation Visit Lebanon

For reportage on a visit to Lebanon by Ayatollah Jannati and his accompanying delegation, including a report on the opening of the new Iranian Embassy in West Beirut, see the Lebanon section of the 9 March Middle East & Africa *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Envoy Briefs Musavi on Relations With Turkey

LD081326 Tehran IRNA in English 1258 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to Turkey Manushehr Mottaki, who is here on a homecoming visit, briefed Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi on Tehran-Ankara relations as well as the latest developments in the region, on Sunday. During the meeting, the prime minister gave Mottaki necessary guidelines and emphasized on the need to further expand Iran-Turkey relations.

Turkish Envoy, Majlis Official View Raids on Kurds

LD081703 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA — Newly-appointed Turkish Ambassador to Iran Volkan Vural held talks with head of the Majlis Foreign Policy Commission Ahmad Azizi on issues of mutual interest and the latest developments in the region.

Commenting on Turkish air raids on Kurdish-populated areas in northern Iraq, Azizi told Vural that Iranian Majlis deputies are greatly concerned over the air attack. He furthermore called on the Ankara government to reconsider its policy in relation with dissident Iraqi Kurds. The Turkish ambassador called for further Tehran-Ankara parliamentary relations.

Envoy to Sweden on U.S. 'Plots' To Mar Relations

LD070955 Tehran IRNA in English 0858 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Stockholm, March 7, IRNA — Iran's charge d'affaires to Sweden Ja'far Shamsian [name as received] said here Friday that since the very beginning of the Islamic Revolution in Iran the

U.S. has designed and hatched various plots and each time has tasted bitter defeat.

Speaking at a press conference, Shamsian referred to the U.S. plots to mar good relations between Iran and neutral countries. He praised political personality of the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme and his efforts to enforce international regulations.

The Iranian official said that Palme had uncompromising and explicit stances towards the U.S.'s aggressive policies. For the U.S., Palme was an obstacle on the way of attaining objectives of its expansionist policies in northern Europe.

Palme used to openly oppose U.S. interference in Nicaragua and he also had a record of opposing the war in Vietnam.

On recent reports by the U.S. daily *New York Times* that Palme's assassination stemmed from the Iraq-Iran war, Shamsian said that the U.S., after being rebuffed in its rapprochement attempts towards Iran and in order to deviate public opinion, hatched plots against Iran, mainly those aimed at damaging Iran's good relations with friendly countries.

To this end, he added, the Americans chose Sweden in northern Europe and in a futile attempt attributed Palme's murder to his role as a mediator and also to trade relations between Iran and Sweden.

Shamsian said the U.S. feared public opinion because it may come to know the agents involved in Palme's assassination. He said that U.S. pressures on Swedish T.V. to cancel the airing of the film 'Who Murdered Palme?' on the anniversary of his assassination was a prove to it.

Asked if Swedish arms were used by Iran, Shamsian said that the Islamic Republic would maintain its required weaponry from wherever it deemed necessary to defend its territorial integrity and nation.

In reply to a question on whether Swedish T-70 missiles were used [words indistinct] envoy said that arms of this kind had been exported to the southern Persian Gulf region.

He stressed that Iran manufactured a portion of its arms needs domestically and as reporters were aware, Iran had seized remarkable amounts of munitions from the enemy.

Oil Minister Visits Gabon, Algeria, Libya

For reportage on the visits to Gabon, Algeria, and Libya by a delegation headed by Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, including his meetings with Gabonese President El Hadj Omar Bongo, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, and Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, see the Central and North Africa sections of the 9 March Middle East & Africa *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Tudeh Party Plans for 'Democratic' Government

LD081552 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, Tudeh comrades, and revolutionary activists: Radio of the Iranian Toilers in its previous programs, has broadcast introductions to the geopolitical and political views of the party, the important characteristics of world and Iranian developments, the evolution in the class structure of the society, the importance of toppling the regime and deep-rooted evolution, and has made the esteemed compatriots, struggling Tudeh members, and revolutionary activists more aware. From today on, a new chapter of the party plan entitled "Views and Plans of the Tudeh Party of Iran on a Revolutionary and Democratic State" will be brought to your attention. [passage omitted]

It will be the duty of a united popular front to invite a constituent assembly to provide, compose, and approve a (constitution) and determine the foundations for a new system of government. The members of the assembly will be elected by an equal, direct, and secret ballot of all Iranians of all ages, languages, religions, and political and ideological persuasions. The constituent assembly is obliged to determine the form of government and the new constitution. In the period between the fall of the regime and the approval of the constitution the country will be administered by a transitional government, which must be appointed by the leadership of the united popular front. On the basis of experience during two revolutions in this century in Iran and also of other revolutions in the same period, the Tudeh Party of Iran reveals for public debate its views on plans for a future government in the form of a republic, as follows:

A. Evolution in government structure

1. The revolutionary and democratic government will dissolve the reactionary state apparatus. The new government will negate all forms of theocratic rule and will follow only those social norms that accord with the present evolutionary status of society, allowing changes in circumstances and in accordance with fresh needs. All religions and sects will be respected by the revolutionary and democratic government. Any disrespect to religious belief or imposing of restrictions against followers of various religions will be condemned.

2. The revolutionary and democratic government will rely on the united front of revolutionary and democratic social forces in accordance with the voluntary unity of all masses of the Iranian nation on the basis of mutual respect and equal rights.

3. All state organs of the revolutionary and democratic government will be elected in a direct, equal, and secret ballot by the public. They will be responsible to the public.

4. The consultative assembly of Iran is the highest source of state authority with the participation of the people's elected representatives. The assembly will be responsible for legislation, selection of the cabinet, and inspection of its performance.

5. Local organs elected by the multitudes of the public to administer state affairs include councils of provinces, provincial capitals, towns, districts, and villages in all national zones. The

councils will be set up in an autonomous national state framework.

6. The revolutionary and democratic government must have armed forces for defense and security. The Armed Forces of the republic must carry out the will of the people. Officers, NCO's, and personnel of the Armed Forces of Iran must enjoy all political and social rights of all citizens.

7. The government will guarantee the independence of courts on the basis of the democratic election of judges.

B. Rights and political freedom as individuals in society

1. The abolition of all present repressive and inquisition organs and the repeal of all laws denying people's rights.

2. The release of all political prisoners and the immediate declaration of annulment of all indictments and sentences issued by (?shari'ah), military or otherwise, against the strugglers for freedom, independence, and social justice, restoring their dignity and all rights denied them.

3. An inviolable guarantee of the freedom of opinion, religion, speech, expression, freedom of press, gathering, parties and trade unions, freedom of choice in employment, place of residence, travel, organizing strikes, and freedom of defense in courts while enjoying full personal immunity.

4. The provision of voting rights for all persons over 18 and the right for all over the age of 25 to be elected without bias toward sex, race, religion, ideology, nationality, academic qualification, and position.

5. Recognition and guarantees for the right of establishing trade organizations, unions, syndicates, councils, cooperatives, and others for all workers, peasants, civil servants, and other toilers of town and country in levels in work and trade units and work places to general levels.

6. Guarantees for the right of true participation by independent worker trade organizations in the management of affairs related to working conditions and their lives in production, administration, and services sectors.

7. Recognition and guarantees for the right of independent worker trade organs to unions and federations to participate at regional, continental, and world levels as well as providing necessary conditions for correspondence, exchanges, declaration of solidarity, and exchange of information about unions, social, and political affairs.

Dear listeners and Tudeh comrades, the continuation of Tudeh Party views and plans for a revolutionary and democratic government will be broadcast in future programs.

Khomeyni Pardons 1,000 Prisoners in Bakhtaran

LD071049 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, March 7, IRNA — Some 1,000 prisoners sentenced by the Islamic Revolution's prosecutor of Bakhtaran western Province, have been pardoned by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said an official of the Prosecutor's Office here Saturday.

Those freed are among many others who have been covered by the pardon given by the imam on the occasion of the anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Dispatch of Combatants to Fronts Scheduled

LD071355 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] In an interview this morning with a Central News Unit reporter in connection with the continuation of the dispatch of the Mahdi Corps — may the Almighty hasten his lofty advent — Mr Rahmani, the official in charge of the Mobilization of the Oppressed Unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, said:

So far, more than 130,000 combatants have departed for the fronts of justice against injustice. Taking note of the great victories achieved in the recent operations, it has been decided that during the New Year period, a special dispatch under the title 'The Dispatch of the Soldiers of Holy Mahdi,' will be undertaken over a period of 45 days. He said: The reason for this dispatch is that, taking note of the arrival of the New Year period and the great number of requests received from various strata such as students, workers, and employees to be sent to the fronts, we hope that in accordance with the program we have prepared and the coordinations that have been carried out, this special dispatch will materialize between 9 and 20 March of the current year. Volunteers will have their names registered in all the mobilization unit centers.

The official in charge of the Mobilization of the Oppressed Unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, said: Simultaneous with this dispatch, convoys and columns under the title 'Columns Moving Toward the Light' will be organized during the New Year period to visit and meet the combatants. All those who are ready to take part in these columns, especially clergymen, are invited to do so. We hope that Friday prayer leaders and preachers will, as usual, depart for the fronts along with people's donations, to visit the combatants of Islam, ahead of the said columns. In conclusion Mr Rahmani remarked: Due to the issues that have been taken into consideration, the number of volunteers involved in the special dispatch of the Holy Mahdi Corps will at most be between 50,000 and 60,000.

Musavi Attends Commemoration of 'Martyr' in Esfahan

LD061749 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Esfahan, March 6, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi arrived here Friday morning to participate in a ceremony commemorating the martyrdom of the commander of Imam

Hoseyn (A.S) Division, Hoseyn Kharrazi, and a group of other martyrs.

Speaking at the ceremony which was held in "Seyyed" mosque, the prime minister said that thanks to the Islamic Revolution, Iranian Armed Forces are now playing the most powerful and determining role in the region.

Describing the victories of the Islamic Revolution in political, economic, social, and military fields, Musavi said the world has now realised that the Iranian Armed Forces are independently fighting for the goals of an Islamic society.

"We do not consider capture of part of the Iraqi land as victory since Iranian nation has risen up for higher goals," said the prime minister.

Musavi also lauded martyr Kharrazi and the Imam Hoseyn (A.S.) Division whose contribution to the war fronts, he said were "invaluable".

The prime minister left here for the capital at mid-day Friday. Before departure he met and conferred with Imam Khomeyni's representative and Friday prayer leader of Esfahan, Ayatollah Taheri as well as relatives of martyr Kharrazi.

Iraqi Mojahedin 'Factor' Strengthening Revolution
NC061036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] A memorial service was held last night by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] at the Hoseyniyeh of the Al-Najaf residents of Qom for the Iraqi mojahedin who were martyred during the "Karbala'-5" operation while fighting to liberate their homeland.

The Central News Unit reports that this spectacular ceremony was attended by several SAIRI members; Lebanese, Pakistani, Indian, and Iraqi theological students and clergymen residing in the Qom Seminary; mojahedin members of the SAIRI; Iraqi emigrants; and residents of Qom. SAIRI Chairman Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim delivered a speech in which he lauded the devotion of the Iraqi mojahedin during the "Karbala'-5" operation. He stated: During the "Karbala'-5" operation, the Iraqi mojahedin, together with the brave combatants of Islam, made great efforts to free the holy land of Iraq from the infidel Ba'thists. Once again, they showed the world that numerous strongholds and modern equipment cannot obstruct the movement of Islam or revolution. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim continued by discussing the impact the "Karbala'-5" operation had on the world, and said: This operation was so immense and extensive that it overwhelmed all the propaganda and lies by world arrogance, forcing them, contrary to their heartfelt wishes, to admit Saddam's weakness in confronting the brave combatants of Islam.

In another part of his speech the SAIRI chairman described the participation of the Muslim Iraqi mojahedin in the "Karbala'-5" operation as one of the great honors of the Muslim Iraqi nation. He said the pure blood shed by these dear people was the factor strengthening Iraq's Islamic Revolution movement. In conclusion, the SAIRI chairman pointed to the need for unity among the Iraqi Muslim nation in the fight against Iraq's Ba'thist-Zionist regime, and he prayed for the imam's long life and for future victories for the combatants of Islam.

The same report states that yesterday evening, on the same occasion, the Basij members of the SAIRI, who were in combat uniforms and carrying pictures of the imam of the nation, Martyr Ayatollah Sadr, and other martyrs of Iraq's Islamic revolution, marched through the streets of Qom, chanting strong slogans such as "Flee to hell" and "Husayn is our slogan and Khomeyni is our leader" and announcing their readiness to go to the fronts of the war of good against evil. After passing through several streets in Qom, the marchers went to the tomb of the pure martyrs of the Iraqi Islamic revolution and vowed that they would not rest until the overthrow of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime which now rules Iraq and the liberation of the holy land of Iraq.

Army Aviation Commander Cited on "Karbala'-5"
NC070925 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Our correspondent from the southern operational sector spoke to one of the commanders of the Army Aviation Division recently. His report on the conversation follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the victories of the triumphant forces of Islam in the "Karbala'-5" operational sector, which were aided by the long-range artillery units and helicopters of Iran's Army Aviation Division, the Ba'thist mercenaries suffered heavy personnel losses, as well as great material damage to their tanks, personnel carriers, and bunkers. One of the Army Aviation commanders who played a major role in the operations told our correspondent [as heard] that, in view of the extensive and massive operations carried out by the Army Aviation Division, the division's ever-vigilant and alert pilots continue to forge new epics alongside the noble Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps, attacking with lightning speed the heart of the Zionist Iraqi enemy. Today, the world has been forced to admit that fact. He added that in the course of these operations, the heroic Army Aviation personnel completed 30 sorties over enemy positions and fortifications. Their heroism has inspired fear in the hearts of the Iraqi forces, evidenced by the fact that as soon as our helicopters appear on the horizon, they become so terrified that they hide in their positions, not daring to move.

The commander spoke of the high morale of personnel, mentioning that when the pilots enter the enemy's sector in the evening hours for an attack on the enemy of Islam, they are in a divinely inspired euphoric state, which is the real reason for their victory against the enemy. He referred to the selflessness of the Army Aviation Division personnel and said: Today we happily endure tribulation and hardship so that we may attain the sweetness of victory for the Iranian nation against world infidels. We are confident that the enemy will soon succumb to the blows of the Islamic forces, and a massive victory will be the destiny of the Muslim Iranian nation. The glory of divine blessings is near.

This is the special correspondent for the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, southern operational sector. [end recording]

IRNA Reporters View Operations West of Fish Lake

LD071044 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Excerpts] West of Fish Canal, March 7, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran have stabilized their positions behind crescent-shaped former Iraqi defense lines west of the Fish Canal with the area now a graveyard for Iraqi troops and equipment.

An IRNA team of reporters which visited the operational theater Friday reported seeing bomb craters, vast mine fields, and barbed wire installed in the area by the Iraqis. [passage omitted]

During the tour, anti-aircraft units suddenly opened fire on Iraqi helicopters, attempting to provide air support for the battered Iraqi units. Heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire forced the Iraqi helicopters to flee before they could carry out any mission.

A few minutes later, Iranian fighter planes conducted five sorties against Iraqi positions and troops, leaving palls of thick smoke billowing skyward.

Meanwhile, helicopters of the Army aviation service conducted two low altitude bombing runs against Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers.

The IRNA team reported that the engineering units could be referred to as the most resistant forces in the front lines since in addition to building embankments for Muslim forces, they cut passes through enemy mine fields and provide Muslim combatants with bunkers while they have no bunkers themselves.

An official in charge of the engineering units told IRNA reporters that the units had played important roles in operations launched east of Basra.

Communiques Issued on Operations in War With Iraq

No 2,767

LD061736 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters bombed Iraqi troop concentration sites, armoured pieces, and munition depots in "Karbala'-5" theater at 06:12, 07:33, 08:54, 09:47, 11:02, 11:57, and 12:47 GMT Friday in seven sorties. The fighters returned to bases safely after inflicting heavy losses and damage on the enemy forces, according to a military communique here Friday.

Communique Number 2,767 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that an Iraqi Sukhoi-22 was shot down in "Karbala'-5" operational region at 10:21 GMT Friday.

The communique said that Iraqi forces mustered their troops in "Karbala'-7" operational theater on Thursday attempting five futile counterattacks which were repelled by Division 64 of Iranian Ground Forces. The defeated Iraqi forces were forced to withdraw sustaining substantial losses and damage, it added.

Some Iraqi troops were killed and three others captured in a clash between Iranian and Iraqi patrols in Kalaleh operational region, said the communique, adding this brought to 273, the number of Iraqi POW's taken in "Karbala'-7" of whom 12 are officers and 43 non-commissioned officers.

Muslim combatants of Iran heavily shelled Iraqi infantry forces in western fronts inflicting some casualties on them, said the communique. Activities of the enemy forces were also disrupted, it added.

Exchange of artillery fire raged in southern fronts, the communique said, being somewhat more intense in Kushk and Bubiyan. The Iranian Muslim combatants silenced Iraqi tank fire in Nahr-e 'Anbar and Hoseyniyah, destroying some of enemy tanks, it added.

The communique further said that Iran's Gendarmerie forces killed some Iraqi soldiers and set ablaze two trucks, a command jeep, six gun emplacements, a mortar launcher, and a machine gun of theirs.

No 2,768

LD071808 Tehran IRNA in English 1746 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran reconnoitered and shelled positions of two Iraqi reinforcement brigades and one artillery battalion of the 16th Division in Hajj 'Umran operational region Friday and Saturday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops and equipment. The Iraqi artillery units were destroyed by 50 percent by the Iranian artillery fire.

Announcing the above, the 2768th communique of the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that Iranian forces also smashed Iraqi counterattacks in the "Karbala'-7" operational theater Friday morning and night, destroying 30 percent of the attacking Iraqi troops.

Fifty enemy vehicles, nine tanks, and five munitions dumps were destroyed and six enemy tanks seized intact by the Iranian combatants in the smashed counterattack.

In the "Karbala'-5" theater, jet fighters of the Islamic Republic Air Force heavily bombed Iraqi positions east of Basra at 08:17 GMT Saturday, inflicting considerable casualties and damage on enemy troops. The fighters returned safely to bases.

The Joint Staff communique said that at least 15 gun emplacements and several vehicles of the Iraqi forces were destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts, Friday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

In the northwestern fronts, Iranian artillery fire inflicted heavy casualties and losses on Iraqi troops in Marivan and forced a convoy of enemy patrols to flee in Sardasht, inflicting some

casualties on them.

Elsewhere in the southern and western fronts, exchange of artillery fire continued sporadically on Saturday when Iranian forces checked movement of Iraqi tank and artillery units as well as vehicle columns in Sumar, Naft Shahr, Chananeh, Chazabeh, and Hoseyniyeh.

A convoy of Iraqi forces was forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire in Nahr-e 'Anbar on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Iranian Navy gun boats intercepted and inspected four cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, Friday but allowed them to continue voyage after no suspicious cargo was found on board, concluded the communique.

No 2,769

LD081527 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran smashed an Iraqi counteroffensive in the "Karbala'-7" operational theater in Hajj 'Umran, northweastern Iraq, early Saturday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi troops and forcing the remaining attacking troops to flee.

Announcing the above, Communique Number 2,769 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that at least 10 Iraqi bunkers were destroyed and one enemy munitions dump and several vehicles set ablaze in parts of the southern and western fronts Saturday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the western fronts Saturday raging somewhat more heavily in Naft-e Shahr and Qasr-e Shirin as a result of which a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements destroyed.

In the southern fronts Saturday, Muslim forces of Iran traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops and convoys of Iranian patrols reconnoitered enemy positions, dealing effective blows on Iraqi troops before returning safely to bases.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi warplanes and helicopters were checked in Hajj 'Umran (northwestern fronts), Sumar (western fronts), Yabis and Chazzabeh (southern fronts) by Iranian anti-aircraft fire on Saturday.

A number of Iraqi vessles attempting to sail out of the Khawr 'Abdallah region were shelled by artillery fire of Iranian naval forces Saturday afternoon as a result of which an enemy vessel was sunk and the others forced to flee.

Iran's Navy gun boats intercepted and inspected nine cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday but allowed the ships to continue voyage after finding no suspicious cargo on board, the communique concluded.

Joint IRGC, Iraqi Kurd Operations Reported

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[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA — Peshmergas of Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party in an attack on a military base near Kani Masi, northern Iraqi province of Dahuk, March 3, took over the base killing or wounding a large number of Iraqi state military personnel, said a Ramadan headquarters of the irregular warfare of the IRGC statement issued Sunday.

In this attack, it added, several military vehicles were destroyed and the remaining personnel fled the base.

Meanwhile, the Peshmergas of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in attacks on seven military bases on Kofri-Sarghola road in Kirkuk Province, Feb 26, killed 12 Iraqi forces and wounded 15 others. The PUK forces seized large amounts of munitions, it added.